(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Cooperation agreement has been signed between Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on 17th February, 1995. Under the terms of the agreement, the information on projects and procurement of goods and services financed by EBRD Would be accessible to Exim Bank, which in turn would be made available to Indian companies to enable increased participation in winning contracts for which payment risk does not exist. Opportunities for co-financing of projects by Exim Bank will also be available under this agreement.

(c) and (d) This agreement will benefit Indian companies to increase their participation in EBRD funded projects and procurement of goods and services as well as co-financing by Exim Bank.

Import of Newsprint

885. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what is the value and weight of Newsprint imported from foreign countries during the period 1-10-94 to 31-1-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Disaggregated data of imports are available only upto December 1994. The value and weight of newsprint imported from foreign countries during the period 1-10-94 to 31-12-94 are as follows:

Weight (in Tonnes)	Value (in Rupees Lakhs)
63,875	10(,479

Import and Export of items during 1993-94

886. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be peasled to state:

(a) what is the total value and items of the imports made during the year 1993-94. country-wise details thereof; and

(b) what is the total value and items of the exports made during the said period, country-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The details of imports and exports made during the years are available in the publications 'Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India' (Annual number for 1993-94) Volume II—Imports and Volu me I—Exports and Re-Exports, published by DGCI&S, Calcutta, Copies of these publications are available in the Parliament Library.

Export of Books, Newspapers and Management Library

887. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of export of books, newspapers and magazines etc. language-wise during the year 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBMARAM): The value of export of books, news papers and magazines etc. during the year 1993—94 was of the order of Rs. 70.00 crores details of which are given below:

(1) Books & Pamphlets Printed	Rs. 42.25 creres
(2) Newspaper & Periodicals	Rs. 16.00 crores
(3) Job Printing	Rs. 11.75 crores

Majority of the books, newspapers, magazines exported are in the English language.

Import of fabrics under special import Licence

888. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow import of fabrics and garments under special import licence; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBMARAM):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Details are contained in Public Notice No. 271(PN)/92-97 dated 15.2.1995 of Ministry of Commerce, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

US proposal to India for APEC Membership

889. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India signed a number of agreements with USA during the visit of US Commerce Secretary to India;

(b) if so, the main features of each of the agreements signed.

(c) whether it is also a fact that U.S. Commerce Secretary expressed the view that India could apply for membership of APEC; and

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBMARAM): (a) and (b) During the visit of Mr. Ronald H. Brown. United States Secretary of Commerce to India in January 1995, India and USA signed an MOU on the formation of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance. The Commercial Alliance provides a frame work for increased interactions between the private sector Enterprised in both countries for expanding business relations. Chief Executive Officers of 25 large American Companies accompanied Mr. Ron Brown on this visit and signed or announced a number of agreements etc. in different sectors including Power, Telecommunications, Petro Chemicals involving private sector investments.

(c) No such view was expressed by the US Commerce Secretary during the official talks.

(d) Do not arise.

Difficulties faced by consumers due to shortage of Coffee

890. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the common man in the country is facing a lot of difficulty in getting enough coffee for their use, if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(b) whether it i also a fact that exporters try to export more coffee to earn more in terms of foreign exchange:

(c) what is the total requirement of coffee for local consumption in the country and steps taken to meet the increasing needs of the consumers; and

(d) details of the coffee exports and consumption within the country during the last three months together with Government's action to meet the local needs of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) With a record production of coffee in the year 1993-94, there is no dearth of coffee for cosumption in the domestic market. However, the common man has been facing difficulties due to raise in price of coffee.